

**EFFAB**European Forum of
Farm Animal Breeders**FABRE • TP**Farm Animal Breeding
& Reproduction
Technology Platform

Pig breeding and dissemination of genetic improvement

Balanced Pig Breeding

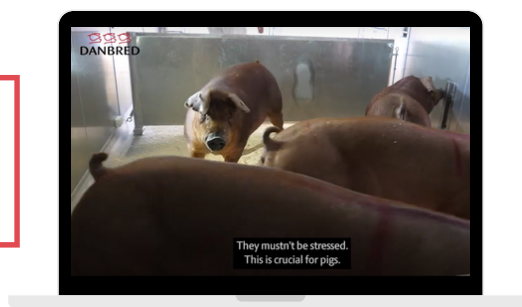
Modern pig breeding programs are developed under the concept of **Responsible and Balanced Breeding (Code EFABAR)** and aim to develop healthy and robust sows, boars, and piglets for all types of pig systems, from conventional to free-farrowing, organics, and for traditional productions under high-quality schemes (PDO, PGI, DOP, Jabugo, Parma...). Animals that are also resilient to environmental and disease challenges have improved welfare and produce high-quality meat with decreased use of natural resources (feed, water, energy) to help farmers to be more sustainable.

How are breeding pigs being transported?

The animal breeding sector is continuously monitoring and improving conditions to transport animals. Breeding companies ensure that the means of transport and procedures to transport their animals allow them to ensure the best animal health and welfare.

- Firstly, it is always ensured that the animals are **fit for transportation**. This important step is always done under the supervision of veterinarians.
- The journeys are always **carefully planned** – considering the type of animals to be transported, the resting times, weather forecast and traffic conditions.
- The vehicles are **temperature-controlled**.
- **Water supply** is guaranteed, to ensure that the animals have access to sufficient water throughout the duration of the journey.
- The staff involved in transporting live animals is **well trained** and the **contingency plan** is always ready to figure out any problems occurring during transportation.

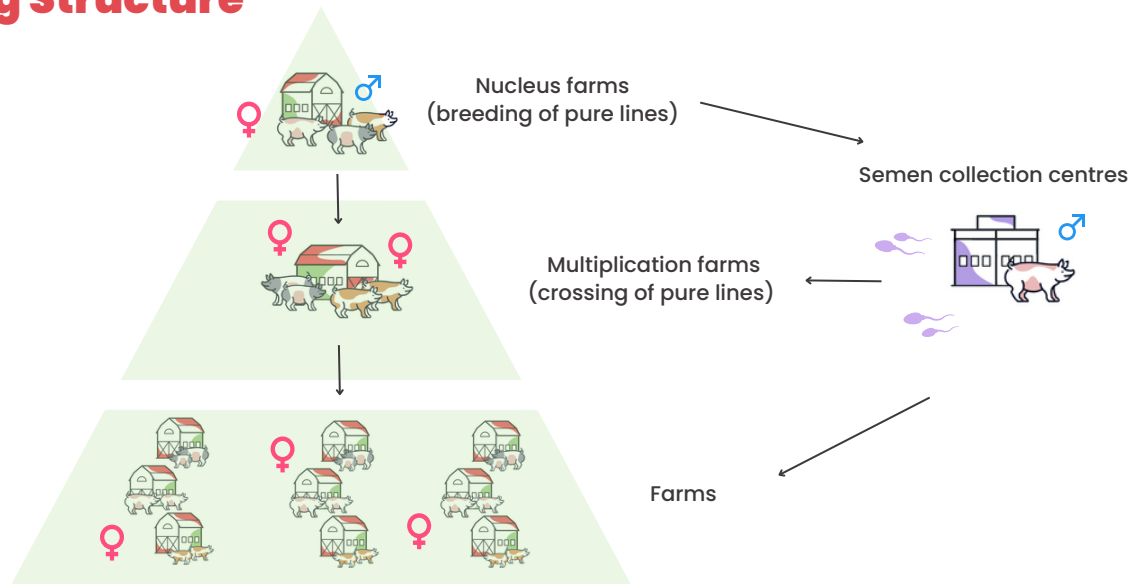
Watch how the transportation takes place



Why do we need to transport?

European pig breeding companies and associations are working at a local, regional, and global level. The pig breeding structure is commonly mostly organised in a pyramidal way, with maternal and paternal lines being selected by breeding companies and associations, at the top of the pyramid.

Pig Breeding Structure



Transporting reproductive material is not always possible or viable :

- In the pig sector, fresh semen is primarily used since, due to its composition, the cells are highly susceptible to freezing. This results in **low fecundation success when frozen semen is used** and makes the option not fully viable in farms. As a result, the use of frozen semen is limited to special occasions and the existence of regional semen collection centres producing fresh semen is a necessary reality. That's why boars are transported to semen collection centres and fresh semen is produced and provided to farmers to inseminate in farms.
- The use of fresh and frozen embryos is neither technologically possible nor viable. The fact is that this method is practically impossible to implement. Due to the physiology of the uterus of a sow, which consists of two horns being incredibly long with an enormous amount of folds and twists, there is currently no routine technique other than surgery to collect embryos from a living sow, compromising animal welfare. Unfortunately, this means that breeding pigs cannot be moved as embryos, and the transport of breeding pigs that have been selected on the basis of their genetic value is a necessity.

Breeding companies focus on prevention by, first, fulfilling requirements of EU Animal transport regulation (1/2005) and Animal Health Regulation (RE 2016/429) and maintaining the long-term health, well-being and productivity of the animals for farmers.



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